CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

A computer implemented method for remote access to files for a local agent module, comprising:

polling a server for a task request; 5 receiving a task request from the server; executing a task from the task request; causing a file to be uploaded, the file identified in the task request, to a server;

waiting for a schedule timer to expire; and repeating the above acts, beginning with the act of polling.

- The method of claim 1, further comprising: 2. setting up local agent preferences; setting up remote client preferences; initiating the act of polling, based on the local agent preferences; and
- initiating an act of uploading, based on the remote client preferences. 20
 - The method of claim 1, wherein the act of polling occurs over a transmission control protocol/internet protocol stack, through functions specified in a simple object access protocol interpreter.
 - The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the task includes:
- initiating a request to a subsystem for the file; and 30 receiving the file from the subsystem.

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5. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the task includes:

initiating a request to a subsystem for the file; instructing the subsystem to upload the file to the server; and

receiving an indication that the file was uploaded to the server.

10 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of executing the task includes:

initiating a request to a message access protocol interface for the file from a message access protocol interface database; and

receiving the file from the message access protocol database.

- 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the act of uploading the file includes instructing the file to be sent to the server from the message access protocol database.
- 8. A computer readable medium including sequences of instructions for causing one or more processors to perform acts for remote file access for a local agent module, the sequences of instructions comprising:

polling a server for a task request;
 receiving a task request from the server;
 executing a task from the task request;
 causing a file to be uploaded, the file identified in
the task request, to a server;

5 9. The computer readably medium of claim 8, further comprising instructions for performing the acts of: setting up local agent preferences;

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 setting up remote client preferences;

initiating the act of polling, based on the local agent preferences; and

initiating an act of uploading, based on the remote client preferences.

- 10. The computer readable medium of claim 8, wherein the act of polling occurs over a transmission control protocol/internet protocol stack, through functions specified in a simple object access protocol interpreter.
- 11. The computer readable medium of claim 8, wherein the
 20 act of executing the task includes:
 initiating a request to a subsystem for the file; and
 receiving the file from the subsystem.
 - 12. The computer readable medium of claim 8, wherein the act of executing the task includes:

initiating a request to a subsystem for the file; instructing the subsystem to upload the file to the server; and

receiving an indication that the file was uploaded to 30 the server.

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13. The computer readable medium of claim 8, wherein the act of executing the task includes:

initiating a request to a message access protocol interface for the file from a message access protocol interface database; and

receiving the file from the message access protocol database.

- 14. The computer readable medium of claim 13, wherein the act of uploading the file includes instructing the file to be sent to the server from the message access protocol database.
 - 15. A local agent comprising:

a task processor for polling a server for a task request, the task request identifying a file in a local computer;

a schedule timer communicatively coupled to said task processor for controlling a task processor polling interval; and

one or more protocol stacks for communicating over a network with the server.

- 16. The local agent of claim 15, wherein the one or more protocol stacks includes a transmission control protocol/internet protocol stack.
 - 17. The local agent of claim 15, wherein the one or more protocol stacks includes a simple object access protocol interpreter.

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- 18. The local agent of claim 15, further comprising a subsystem for executing a task from the task request.
- 5 19. The local agent of claim 15, further configured to initiate a request to a message application programming interface database.
 - 20. The local agent of claim 15, further configured to receive a file from a message application programming interface database.
 - 21. A local agent module for remote access to files, comprising:

a transmission control protocol/internet protocol stack for network communication with a server over a network;

an extensible markup language input/output parser, communicatively coupled to the transmission control/internet protocol stack, for breaking down data and commands;

a simple object access protocol interpreter, communicatively coupled to the extensible markup language input/output parser, for creating file system instructions to poll the server for a task request and retrieve a file specified in the task request;

and a task processor, communicatively coupled to the simple object access protocol interpreter, for executing subsystem instructions and initiating poll commands, based on a schedule timer.

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- 22. The local agent module of claim 21, wherein local agent module includes a communications module configured to provide a carrier for network communication to the server, the local agent module configured to periodically connect to the server through the communication module at intervals set by the schedule timer.
 - 23. The local agent module of claim 22, wherein the local agent module resides in a memory of a local computer, and is configured to access files in a storage device associated with the local computer.
 - 24. The local agent module of claim 21, further comprising a message application programming interface, communicatively coupled to the task processor, for allowing access to a message application protocol interface database.